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Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029417

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, CY

SUBJECT: GREEK AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY SISCO
FEBRUARY 5.

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS CALLED FEBRUARY 5 ON UNDER SECRETARY SISCO TO REVIEW PROSPECTS FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF CYPRUS INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. ALEXANDRAKIS SAID THE TURKS HAD RENEGED ON THE BRUSSELS AGREEMENT REACHED LAST DECEMBER AND NOW WERE CALLING FOR ONLY A CEREMONIAL CYPRUS MEETING IN VIENNA IN MID-FEBRUARY. DID THE US BELIEVE SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WERE NECESSARY IN VIENNA AND, IF
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SO, WOULD WE MAKE THIS CLEAR TO TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER

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CAGLAYANGIL NEXT WEEK IN WASHINGTON?

2. SISCO IN RESPONSE ASKED THAT TWO POINTS BE CONVEYED TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT: (A) THAT THE US WANTED THE VIENNA TALKS TO PROCEED SUBSTANTIVELY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY AND (B) THAT, WHILE THE MAIN PURPOSE OF CAGLAYANGIL'S VISIT WAS TO DISCUSS THE US-TURKISH MUTUAL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP, THE VISIT AFFORDED US AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS UPON THE TURKS THE NEED FOR PROMPT PROGRESS ON CYPRUS. THE UNDER SECRETARY NOTED WE WOULD BE SUBMITTING A FURTHER REPORT TO CONGRESS ON CYPRUS ON FEBRUARY 5 WHICH WOULD EMPHASIZE OUR ROLE IN GETTING THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS RESTARTED AND

WOULD POINT TO A CONTINUING DESIRE TO ASSIST THE PARTIES REACH A SETTLEMENT. WE, THEREFORE, HAVE A CLEAR STAKE IN THE OUTCOME OF THE VIENNA TALKS. WHILE PROGRESS OUGHT TO BE POSSIBLE, THE CONTINUING POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY IN TURKEY CONSTITUTES AN INHIBITING FACTOR IN THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS. THAT UNCERTAINTY ALSO ADDS FURTHER COMPLICATIONS TO US-TURKISH RELATIONS.

3. ALEXANDRAKIS MADE ONE SPECIFIC REQUEST: THAT THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED FOLLOWING THE CAGLAYANGIL VISIT EXPRESS NOT MERELY A NEED TO RESOLVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM BUT A NEED FOR QUOTE SUBSTANTIVE TALKS UQUOTE. THE GREEK AMBASSADOR DID NOT WANT THE TURKS TO THINK THEY COULD GET AWAY WITH SIMPLY A CEREMONIAL MEETING AT VIENNA. SISCO NOTED THE AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST, BUT UNDERTOOK NO COMMITMENT. SISCO

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